

Times of issue

During the growing season (April 15 – October 15), farm weather bulletins are prepared daily by the Toronto Weather Office and distributed to radio stations at 6:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. A general forecast is available at 4:00 p.m. Check with your local radio station to determine the broadcast times.

The Market Information Service, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, updates its weather bulletins at 7:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. These bulletins are available free to Ontario radio stations; farmers may call (416) 924-9606 to receive these bulletins directly.

Making the best use of weather information

Since the weather has a direct effect on many farm operations, the farmer who follows weather forecasts closely can plan his work more efficiently.

Local conditions – cloud formations and wind direction and speed – should be observed, and related to the latest official weather forecasts for the area.

Weather maps and explanations of meteorological conditions, given by newspapers and TV stations, should be studied.

Personal observations, combined with the information presented by broadcasting stations and newspapers, will give farmers the soundest weather picture.

Future improvements

The use of electronic computers and increases in the amount and speed of data input have made a significant improvement in the accuracy of weather forecasts over the past decade. It can be expected that accuracy will continue to improve in the future. But there is also a need for better ways of bringing the weather forecast picture to the user so that potential benefits will not be lost.

It is not practical for each farmer to consult directly with the forecaster; therefore, it is important that radio weathercasts give the farmer all the information he needs in language that means the same thing to both him and the forecaster. Comments and suggestions from users are welcomed because they can help to improve the bulletins.

Please send your suggestions to:

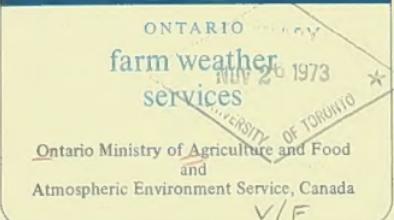
Toronto Weather Office,
Box 159,
Toronto AMF, Ontario
LSP 1B1

OR

Market Information Service,
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food,
Parliament Buildings,
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A5

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This folder contains details about the special weather forecast service available to the agricultural industry in Southwestern Ontario.

Services now available

The agricultural industry often needs more weather information than is available from general public weather forecasts. This service is provided by "Farm Weather Bulletins" which are available free of charge to radio stations in Southern Ontario. If your local radio station does not carry this bulletin, notify the station of your interest in hearing this broadcast.

Preparing the bulletins

Bulletins are prepared at the Toronto Weather Office by meteorologists of the Atmospheric Environment Service, in collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Content

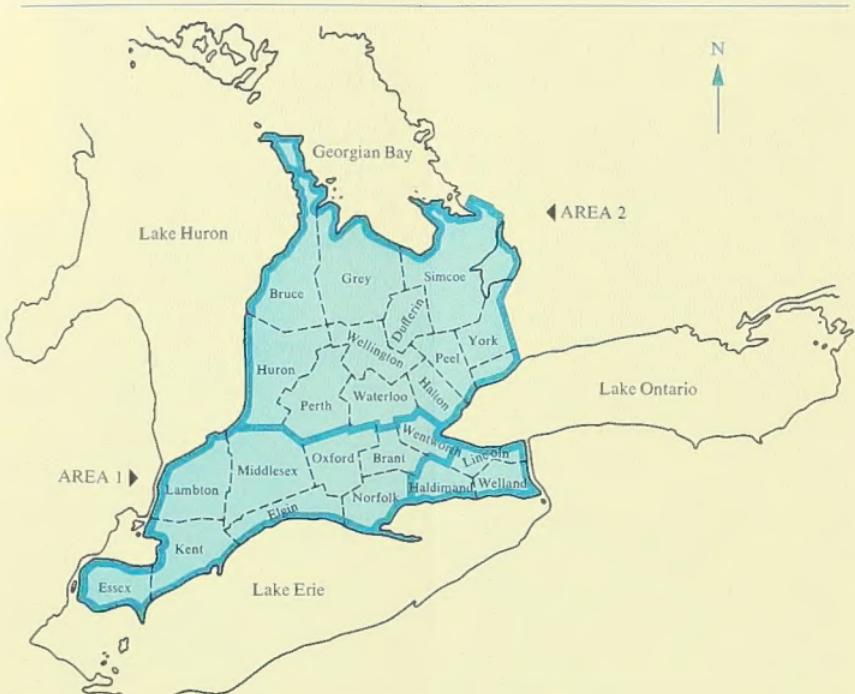
The bulletins include a description of the current weather pattern, and a forecast of weather conditions with particular reference to items which affect farming activities. Such items as the probability of rain or frost, daytime drying conditions, and more detail on light winds are included, depending on the need or the season. Daytime drying conditions are given as a single number called the Drying Index, which takes into account the combined effect of wind, sunshine, temperature, humidity and rainfall. The usual interpretation of this number is given below; however, you may develop from experience your own interpretation of the Drying Index.

Drying Index	Daily Drying Conditions
0 - 10	Unfavorable
11 - 20	Poor
21 - 40	Fair
41 - 70	Good
71 or more	Excellent

In addition to details on expected weather conditions for "today and tomorrow", forecasters provide outlooks for one or more following days, depending on the predictability of future weather events. These outlooks give the farmer some idea of the kind of weather that is likely a few days hence; thus he can be forewarned of dry spells, good harvest weather, etc.

Areas of coverage

The map herewith shows the area covered by the "Farm Weather Bulletins". These are designated as Area 1 and Area 2.



These areas were selected in part because of the farming-weather relationships and to facilitate preparation and distribution of the bulletins.

Separate bulletins will normally be prepared for each area but, when appropriate, the two areas may be covered by a single bulletin.

Note: The Niagara Peninsula and part of the area east of Area 2 are served by other programs originating from the Weather Office, Hamilton, and the Canadian Forces Weather Office, Trenton, respectively. Future plans provide for expanding the "Farm Weather Bulletins" to cover all major agricultural areas in the province when resources permit.